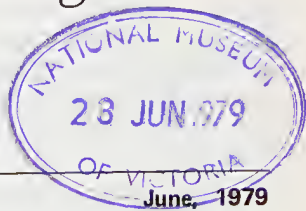


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NOTES ON BUTTERFLIES FROM SOUTH BLACK RANGE, SOUTH-EASTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

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These notes are based on specimens captured in the vicinity of a large permanent marsh, in the South Black Range, at an altitude of approximately 1200 m, 8 km due east of Hoskinstown. The Black Range is a section of the Great Dividing Range lying about 45 km east by south-east of Canberra and is separated from the coastal range by the Shoalhaven River valley. To the north of Black Range the altitude of the Dividing Range falls sharply to about 760 m in the area of Lakes George and Bathurst. To the south the Dividing Range maintains an altitude of 1100 - 1220 m as far as the Brown Mountain area where it turns westward and again drops to an altitude of about 760 m near Cooma. The ranges between Black Range and Brown Mountain are separated from the Tinderry Mountains immediately to the west by the lower, drier valleys of the Queanbeyan and Bredbo Rivers.

Anisynta dominula draco Waterhouse

Common and Waterhouse (1972) record this subspecies from both Brown and Tinderry Mountains, and specimens from South Black Range also appear to belong to this race.

Adults were extremely common flying with *A. monticola* (Olliff) in the vicinity of the marsh in January and February. They were noticeably less common elsewhere in the Range.

Hesperilla donnysa Hewitson

A small number of adults (some bred ex pupa) have been taken. These compare closely with specimens from the nearby Tinderry Mountains which are closely allied to the subspecies *donnysa* (Common and Waterhouse, 1972). The exact subspecific status has not yet been determined.

***Oreixenica orichora orichora* (Meyrick)**

This species is generally a mid-summer to early autumn insect (McCubbin, 1971). Common and Waterhouse (1972) say it is the earliest species of *Oreixenica* on the wing, flying from December through to early February, although, in the Australian Capital Territory, Kitching *et al.* (1978) have only recorded it in January and February.

In South Black Range a large number of freshly emerged adults were first observed flying on 1 December 1977, from approximately 1100 m upward. Also encountered were a number of worn specimens in poor condition, possibly indicating that they had been on the wing for some weeks beforehand, possibly since early November. This unusually early occurrence could be attributed to the relatively warm and dry spring experienced that year, yet specimens in the Brindabella Range (west of Canberra) did not appear to be affected by this.

Specimens from Black Range compared closely in size with specimens from the Australian Capital Territory.

***Oreixenica kershawi* (Miskin)**

Adults were observed commonly on 10 February 1978. The subspecific status of the Black Range specimens is uncertain. After comparison with specimens of *O. k. kershawi* and *O. k. phryne* in the Australian National Insect Collection and using the original description of *phryne* by Tindale (1949) (where comparisons were made with *kershawi*) they appear more closely related to *kershawi*. In addition, specimens from Black Range are similar to specimens from the nearby Brown Mountain - Nimmitabel area which Common and Waterhouse (1972) believe may prove to belong to *kershawi*.

***Tisiphone abeona abeona* (Donovan)**

A brightly marked and possibly isolated colony has been observed in the area of the marsh where its food plant, *Gahnia* sp., grows abundantly. This colony extends the known range of this race westward from the Clyde Mountain-Monga area near Braidwood (pers. comm., E. D. Edwards).

Acknowledgements

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